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Toy Sponsors Legislation Protecting Families During Times of Need

Sponsors bills to revise prepaid funeral services and require state to monitor cemeteries

LANSING – At a press conference held Tuesday at the Michigan State Capitol, Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia, introduced legislation to revise regulations regarding prepaid funeral goods and services, and to require cemeteries to be inspected at least once every three years.

“Michigan residents deserve to have peace of mind when purchasing prepaid funeral contracts,” Toy said. “They should have complete knowledge of what is included in the funeral contract and where their money is going.”

Toy sponsored Senate Bill 512, a bill to amend the Prepaid Funeral Contract Funding Act. The bill would require trusting 100% for monies paid in advance for funeral and/or cemetery good and services. The legislation would require refunds of at least 90% of monies paid plus interest/income. SB 512 also would require that price disclosure requirements be extended to both pre-need and at-need sales.

“Grieving families should also know that the cemeteries where their loved ones have been laid to rest are functioning within the law, and are being well kept,” Toy said.

Legislation sponsored by Senator Toy would require the state cemetery commissioners to inspect the facilities and grounds of a cemetery at least once every three years. Senate Bill __ would allow the commissioner to assess a fee not to exceed \$1,000 to defray the actual expense of the inspection. The bill also would require that a cemetery operating under a name different from the one registered with the state disclose that information in all advertising.

Senate Bills 512 and 513 will now be considered by the Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee.